

**Mecklenburg County
Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Regular Meeting
September 17th, 2020**

Members Present: Ashley Titus, Sonya Harper, Kendra King, Kevin Poirier, Russell Price, Lt. Gene Lim, Brittney Bogues, Denise Steele-Campbell, Janelle Fleck, Dr. Cotrane Penn, Jason Tryon, Heather Taraska, Dr. Keith Cradle, Phyllis Barnette, Tysha Shaw, Judge Faith Fickling-Alvarez, Jessica Davis

Staff Present: Scott Stoker, Elizabeth Swann

Guests Present: Shavonda McClure-Tresports, Michelle Bego- YDI Inc., Alma Moore-DASH Mentoring, Angela Reid- DASH Connections , Glenn Smith-Life Connections-DASH, Becky Smith-Thompson Child & Family Focus, Becky Thompson- Thompson Child & Family Focus, Darryl & Robin Sturdivant-Team Up Connections, Ira Lawrence- BUNK 57 Ministries, Valerie Koeppel-Youth Advocate Program, Chablis Dandridge-Life Connections, Nalo Coban- ASOP, Reggie McNeil-SHIFT Restitution,

Members Absent: Commissioner Pat Cotham, Wanda Douglas, Tomika Moore

The meeting was called to order at 4:33 p.m. by the Chair Kevin Poirier.

Review and Approval of September 17th 2020 Agenda:

Kevin allowed council members to review the agenda. Jessica Davis moved to accept the agenda. Denise Steele-Campbell seconded. The council unanimously approved the agenda.

Review and Approval of June 18th Minutes

Kevin allowed council members to review the minutes. Heather Taraska moved to accept the minutes. Kendra King seconded. The council approved the minutes.

Review and Approval of August 20th Minutes

Kevin allowed council members to review the minutes. Heather Taraska moved to accept the minutes. Kendra King seconded. The council approved the minutes

Welcome

JCPC Chair Kevin Poirier took attendance by having the council members say present in order to keep an attendance log for meeting being virtual. Quorum was established.

Announcements / Reminders

The attendance requirement is now 65% of all regularly scheduled committee meetings.

The inclusion of special and assigned subcommittee meetings is no longer applicable, its 65% of all regularly scheduled meetings. There are no excused absences. Members cannot miss three consecutive regularly scheduled committee meetings. To have action in the subcommittee meetings there must be a quorum to be able to vote.

Budget Revisions – BUNK 57 Ministries

Line # 120	Increase salary from \$5,000 to \$6,300 (curriculum was purchased prior to July 1 st
Line # 190	Accounting Fees Decreased - \$4,200 to \$2,000 received corrected quote based on quarter vs. monthly
Line # 230	\$192, the items were pre-purchased
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Line# 310	Decrease from \$4,126 due to program start-up to \$3,511

Line # 310 Removed \$480 Carrigan Farms Open Swim due to pandemic
Line #450 Insurance & Bonding -increased due to JCPC and Mecklenburg County requirements
 from \$575 to \$3,157

Judge Fickling-Alvarez stated she had not seen the original request, however based on who the approved is identified as the amended budget, her vote is yes.

Brittney Bogues moved to accept the budget revision from Bunk 57 Ministries. Jessica Davis seconded. The council approved the budget revision.

Budget Revision – DASH Vocational

Due to a late delivery of supplies and materials that were purchased the previous fiscal year, the invoice was not honored, we are moving \$2,500 from Line #390 to #290(Other Services & Materials) (musical instruments, misc. curriculum materials) this would pay for the invoice that carried over from last year that was not paid due to delivery date of June 30, 2020.

Sonya Harper clarified for council members since the invoice is processed thru Criminal Justice Services , when you submit an invoice for reimbursement, we must have documentation of both the order and the receipt of goods were received. If you are not able to provide documentation of the receipt of what you'd actually ordered and in this instance, since the order was placed at the end of the fiscal year, there was no documentation of receipt of goods that was received before the budget year closed. Due to that circumstance the invoice was not approved.

Tysha Shaw moved to accept the budget revision from DASH Vocational. Lt. Gene Lim seconded. The council approved the budget revision.

Program Updates and Client Tracking Data from September- *Tracking Sheet provided via email to council members*

Kevin asked programs for a brief current update, the tracking sheet rpt ran on September 15th, some programs may have higher numbers than what will be reported. The sheet has the following categories: # to serve; # served YTD; JCC (Juvenile Court Counselor) referrals; # admitted YTD and demographic breakdown for each program.

SHIFT Restitution -We're monitoring our referrals and looking into additional streamlines that we can offer additional referrals. Many people know we run interest-based programs and pro social community services. We are seeking to extend the experience beyond the judge's court order in keeping kids connected to those pro social and interest-based activities. The activities help to build regulation skills, set goals and develop confidence.

DASH Strengthening Families - In May we've had a total of about 57 referrals. Currently the number stated on the tracking sheet year to date is 28. We have 6 open, that haven't been admitted. Everything's going well virtually with the program. We have had a slowdown in the number of referrals from court counselors, but the more positive asset is, we are more engagement with the family. Some of the families are stating that they're just a bit overwhelmed with the amount of programs that they are referred to at one time and don't know which program to start first. That's been something we've noticed within the last month and we're working to improve more referral sources.

DASH Mentoring – We are ahead of the numbers that we were to serve through the end of June. We have quite a few referrals, we have a lot of kids who are on the run and missing. We're currently trying to locate them. As far as the number of kids, we will probably be at 200% by December. We're on point

with DASH Vocational learning community. Majority of youths comes from the Y. D. C., we have them transition back into society to prepare them for their high school diploma or G.E.D. We've had several to reoffend, so we've had 13 referrals by the counselors. We're trying to see exactly where they are, some have been incarcerated. So before we admit them, we're trying to make sure that they're on track and really want to work and get the job done.

DASH Vocational – We've had 13 referrals from juvenile court counselors, 2 are AWOL, 3 have been re-arrested and been released. We are trying to establish an understanding with the parents to make sure that they're ready to learn before we hand them a computer. We work with high risk youths from the Y.D.C. after 2 years.

TRESports - We have started our fall session on Sept 8th and are having in person classes with the afterschool program, we're picking the children up from home and bring them to the Tresports facility and then take them back. Enrolled currently are 8 students, we are operating 3X per week as opposed to 5X a week.

Thompson Residential -We have currently served 10 young men working with the court counselors. We're making sure our communication and referral process are running smoothly. An innovation that was started 2 weeks ago is an apprenticeship program for young men where they're able to work with maintenance crew at Thompson, whether its raking or blowing leaves, assisting at the cottages cleaning up. There are 4 young men in placement, all are high school students, (2) at Turning Point, (1) Independence High and (1) at East Meck High. We are communicating with the parents and CMS officials; the youths have Chromebooks and are engaged in their virtual learning Monday thru Friday from 8:30am to 2:45pm afterwards they work with the maintenance staff from 3:00pm to 5:00pm to earn a little income. We are looking to receive more referrals and young men.

Thompson Assessments- We've assessed 15 youths at this point in the year, we are on track with our numbers, we're continuing to receive referrals quite a few for those in detention. We're on track operating virtually, we've appreciated the help from our court counselors to help link us up with the youth in detention. No concerns to report as this time.

YDI Family Life Skills - We have (2) students that are enrolled in our program and (1) that's pending. We are working with our court liaison who is putting information out to some of the other court counselors and letting them know that we have availability in our program. Our students are doing well, as some of the other programs have mentioned, because of COVID, we've also set in place various restrictions. We take temperatures whenever students are available, they all wear masks, wash their hands and sanitize them. We disinfect and clean everything down after each usage.

YDI Vocational Career Development II- We have 11 participants and our students are doing well, highly engaged. We practice social distancing when we are doing vocational activities, which are done outside to make sure that they are keeping social distance guidelines. We have done outings with the students, playing putt putt and various things. We do have other things planned with social interacting.

YDI Career Vocational I - We have (5) participants currently. We've just gotten in touch with Turning Point Academy to give us more referrals for our Vocational II program. We have (2) referrals for Vocational II program. Looking to add more participants to the Vocational I program. We have also been utilizing Zoom with the students if they're not able to interact face to face. We are doing that with our life skills component to keep them engaged and active.

Team-Up Connections - We are currently working with (15) students, which is 1/6 of the 90 that we're projected to work with over the next year. Those (15) students are keeping us busy, however we want more references and they're coming in quite quickly than they did last month. Last month we only had (3) or (4) now we have (15). So, there's 1/6 of 90, which is 17%. Six has been admitted to our program, (3) are referrals or pending and we have (6) that will be contacting, within the next 24 to 48 hours. It's a joy for us, we are having a lot of fun doing it. Keep the referrals coming.

Achieving Success on Purpose (BRICK)- We have received (4) referrals, one of them is being served, the other two we're waiting to set appointments. One of the challenges that we ran into was somebody mentioned it earlier about the parents or legal guardian feeling overwhelmed with getting so many referrals to the programs and not knowing which one they were to be a part of. We also had that issue and gotten it straightened out, we're waiting to set appointments with the other two referrals that we received. We also wanted to make sure that it is okay to receive referrals from other programs. We do the in-depth counseling piece, if any programs have any children or youths that need those services, we are available to take them as well, once they have finished up in their previous program. Other than that, we're on board with receiving referrals and operating our program.

BUNK 57 Ministries.- We've had (6) referrals, (3) of those came from the Council for Children's Rights and the others from the court counselors. We have been assigned a court liaison and looking forward to meeting with her and get the referrals worked up by next week. We have two more who hasn't been compliant and refuses to come to group sessions, even though they do spend the time in communication with the mentor. Our mentorship has been going well. In the group sessions, we've served the boys who have attended. Now, we are looking to gain more referrals, we only require 12 for the year. Those are our challenges overall and we're doing well.

Kevin expressed thanks to all programs for sharing.

CJS Assets- is not a program necessarily funded in the same way as the other programs in JCPC,

Sonya Harper provided some general updates because both programs are within the Re-Entry Services Unit. Members of the program have been out to meet with court counselors, giving them an overview of the programming and providing information on the referral process. Just with the ATC (Alternative to Commitments) we haven't received any referrals yet. We've had a couple of court counselors who have reached out and said they do in fact, have referrals, but we're still waiting on the paperwork for those. On the dispositional alternatives project, we're still working out a few contract details with the organization that will be working with us. Right now, we've got a projected start date on that one for October 15th, 2020.

Kevin thanked everyone for all the anecdotal updates as well as the data, sounds like there's some positive things to be said about the referral process, the programs are getting up and running. Kevin thanked Russell Price, his court team, court system and everyone helping to get the JCPC programs servicing youths

Monthly Program Update Document (PDF) format

Conversations have been ensuing around previous meetings on how we want programs to update the JCPC council members on the program itself and especially in a remote environment as we are now. Traditionally in years past, we have done 5 minutes presentation of questioning and there has been seemingly some consensus around, wanting to know a little more about what programs are doing on a monthly basis. We would like to hear about some of the challenges and the successes of those programs. As well as the challenges that are happening so that the council members, and the folks that represent the various organizations and systems on the JCPC can support the programs that we fund. At

the last meeting, Kevin asked the Executive Committee members in the early part of September to come up with a process. There was discussion around this document, which is a monthly program update document that has a variety of information around participations, terminations, funding sustainability and any program structure personnel that the JCPC council should be aware of.

Challenges and success stories, and then community service and restitution, which we did discuss, would not be applicable to all programs. This is a short two-page document that we are bringing to the full JCPC Council today to see the appetite for having this as one of our requirements for programs to submit on a monthly basis. Conversations were had recognizing that we don't want to put more work on the programs especially in this environment, adapting and being flexible in new ways.

At the same time the JCPC council is funding large sums of money every year and it's important that the council has an understanding about who they're funding and where the the county funds are going and what the outcomes are on a monthly basis. So that we're not at the very end of the funding cycle, looking at the data and inquiring as to what happened. We can see over the course of the year, what's happening with each program, so there's a part of it that's accountability, information and knowledge sharing. The Executive Committee decided that this document captured those things that we were looking for. *Scott Stoker* in consultation stated that many of the other surrounding counties submit something similar every single month. It wouldn't be abnormal for Mecklenburg County JCPC to require this document on a monthly basis. Many programs will be able to plug in these numbers and keep a running document as they go.

There was also discussion around the timeline since JCPC meets the 3rd Thursday of the month. We would want these documents if the council were to decide that they would like programs to submit a program monthly report, for example, a due date that could be sent out on the 2nd Thursday for council members to have a week to review. And then we would create a space much like we have for two minutes for some questions and updates. We think that this would be beneficial for the programs because it gives them a platform as well to share the challenges and success stories to inform council members in a systemic way. Kevin opened the floor for discussion around this however there seems to be a consensus, an agreement among the Executive Committee members that consist of the chairs of each committee, that this will be a great tool.

Kevin asked if the JCPC council members has any thoughts around this monthly report?

Discussions:

Judge Fickling-Alvarez who is a juvenile court judge stated this is great for record keeping, accountability and success. Would this replace the verbal communication that everyone just gave, and you will put that total slot with the opportunity to ask questions based on our own reviews of the report? Some of that just seems duplicative, since their just going to repeat everything that's on the monthly report. I'm just curious what the thought process was? Is there a piece on the agenda where the council gets to ask the individual's questions based on the report?

Kevin advised those questions came up in the Executive Committee meeting, for the notion of the duplicative information the document that we just looked at the September monthly tracking document is generated from NC Allies which is a state application, at times it's not accurate in terms of how many juveniles admitted for this particular month and number of participants for the month. This would be more from programs where their data currently stands on that 2nd Thursday of the month.

An opportunity for programs to answer questions, that would be an open question for us to answer to determine whether we want to put some of that on the agenda to allow for questions and answers. One of the reasons why Kevin thinks that it would be beneficial to have this on the 2nd Thursday, is there would be a chance to review it and then submit questions to the JCPC chair to add to the agenda. So we're not just asking questions as the meeting comes on.

Judge Fickling-Alvarez supports the idea of the questions beforehand to the JCPC Chair so that they can be addressed at the meeting in an organized manner.

Kevin stated there's an open conversation with if we still have the two-minute update from programs as well. That seems like it's going pretty well because people can put a face to a program and it doesn't take very long and that might be in addition. We have the program monthly report that we can look at while the program gives their 60 to 120 second update. And then any questions will be submitted beforehand.

Dr. Cotrane Penn liked the idea of the form, however there are some clarifying questions, primarily is the intention that every metric listed on the form is for the previous month only? There's a question about funding to date, spending to date that's obviously a year to date, is it just for that previous month for example?

Scott Stoker stated most of the other counties do the previous month, but it would be up to the JCPC council to design the form, if you want to keep it like it is or or change it. But this form is what is fully reported in Cabarrus county and comparable surrounding counties.

Janelle Fleck shared she thinks its a great document which is helpful to have all this information if we were to agree on specific sections to be highlighted each month. What is verbally updated each month and just the main highlights from this form, then all council members would get a copy of the actual form, certain areas would just be standard monthly updates from each program.

Kevin stated if we were to adopt this form, that could be when the Executive Committee needs to set the agenda, we can retake a look at the form to say this month we will be focusing on participation. *Scott* suggested some of the counties when they set deadlines for programs to turn in reports, if they do not meet that deadline, they don't get to report out, its what you would allow. They just can answer questions about the document. Sometimes we do have programs that don't meet deadlines, sometimes that is also looked at in the monitoring reports and funding time. So, I think a lot of the form itself on a monthly basis also can assist in other things that we do yearly.

Kevin asked if we potentially are ready for a motion to utilize this form going forward at meetings? Knowing that we would start this process on October 8th, In preparation for the October 15th JCPC council meeting.

Judge Fickling-Alvarez asked how are we voting, are we're going to include the implementation? 1. Are we going to highlight things that should be done each month? 2. if you don't turn it in on time you don't get to report out, you just get to answer questions that maybe be posed?

We would be voting on today is to require programs to submit this document one week prior to the JCPC council meeting, if we want to add this part, that grants you the ability to share 1-2 minutes to the full Council. With the implementation of a new process, where some programs and other counties might be utilizing this, Kevin will make himself available, if programs have questions around, how do I get this number easily to put in from NC Allies? So, that to meet that deadline you're able to share out in that way. We don't see this as a barrier for you sharing out the updates to the full JCPC Council. And so,

for all the new programs, rest assured, we're going to support you, in making sure that this is not a huge burden on you to complete.

Kevin will entertain a motion to approve the JCPC programs monthly report as a required report to be submitted by programs on the 2nd Thursday one week prior to the full JCPC council meeting for the opportunity to provide a 2-minute update. Kendra King made a motion to approve the JCPC programs monthly report as a required report to be submitted by programs on the 2nd Thursday one week prior to the full JCPC council meeting for the opportunity to provide a 2-minute update. Dr. Keith Cradle seconded. The council approved the required monthly report submissions to the JCPC council. The reports will be sent to the JCPC Chair-Kevin Poirier, Scott Stoker, NCDPS and Elizabeth Swann, JCPC Admin.

By-Laws Committee-

The By-laws committee will be meeting shortly to look at the revisions based on the new law from the general assembly. We have a vacancy for the By-laws committee chair. The committee consists of myself Kevin Poirier and Ashley Titus.

COVID Support from County & Commissioner Cotham

There was discussion at the Executive Committee meeting to share with programs some of the counties work with COVID to support people in general.

Sonya Harper advised to look on the county website, there are sections on COVID resources. The county has made several different investments to be able to support community organizations as they're being faced with challenges related to COVID.

Committee Reports:

State	Risk & Needs data was sent out. New member orientation session for 9/28 @ 12:30pm, anyone is welcome to attend.
County	N/A
Marketing Committee	N/A
Monitoring Committee	Monitoring starts in Nov/Dec for programs
Risk & Needs Committee	Sending out emails for a meeting date & time
Funding Committee	N/A
Bi-Laws Committee	N/A
Nominating Committee	N/A
Program Support	Any support for the group that is needed
Executive Committee	Meeting on Oct 1, 2020

Kevin asked for a motion to adjourn, Kendra King made a motion to adjourn. Ashley Titus seconded. Meeting ended at 5:56pm.

Minutes submitted by Elizabeth Swann

